

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 HONG K 03741 021129Z

22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /010 W

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R 020825Z APR 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9797

INFO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 3741

TO EA/PRCM ARMSTRONG FROM CROSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, CH(HART,RICHARD R.)

1. IN CONSIDERING OUR SCHEDULE OF CONSULTATIONS, WE HAVE TENTATIVELY DECIDED THAT IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL FOR DICK HART TO VISIT THE PRC ENROUTE HOME TO HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT IN EA/PRCM. (IT WOULD ALSO BE DIFFICULT FOR PRC TO DENY HIM PERMISSION UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES.) GIVEN THE STRICT NEW TRAVEL REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE USE OF FOREIGN CARRIERS, HOWEVER, THIS WILL WORK A HARDSHIP ON HART SINCE HIS FAMILY WILL EITHER BE UNABLE TO MAKE THE TRIP WITH HIM (AS OTHERS CAN AT REASONABLE EXPENSE IN THE CASE OF OFFICERS ON CONSULTATION FROM HERE), OR HART WILL HAVE TO PAY FOUR AIR FARES FROM PEKING TO TOKYO. I DON'T THINK HART SHOULD BE PENALIZED IN THIS WAY SIMPLY BECAUSE THE TIMING OF HIS TRAVEL IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE NEEDS OF THIS POST AND THE DEPARTMENT.

2. I WOULD VERY MUCH APPRECIATE IT, THEREFORE, IF YOU WOULD GIVE US AN EARLY READING ON EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING TWO POSSIBILITIES: (A) SECURING A WAIVER TO THE FOREIGN CARRIER RESTRICTIONS FOR THE HONG KONG-TOKYO LEG OF HART FAMILY RETURN TRAVEL; OR (B) AMENDMENT OF HART'S TRAVEL ORDERS TO AUTHORIZE HIS FAMILY TO ACCOMPANY HIM ON CONSULTATION TRAVEL TO PEKING AT NO ADDITIONAL COST TO THE USG. I HOPE THAT ONE OF THESE TWO OPTIONS WILL PROVE FEASIBLE. IF NOT, WE WILL WANT TO TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE POSSIBILITY OF ROUND TRIP CONSULTATION TRAVEL FOR HART

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FROM HONG KONG.

CROSS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976HONGK03741
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760125-0715
From: HONG KONG
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197604105/aaaadlup.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 MAY 2004 by ElyME>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RICHARD R HART TRAVEL
TAGS: OTRA, CH, (HART, RICHARD R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006